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Agency News

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 6-12

30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice

The 2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) takes place April 6 through 12, and this year's theme is "30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice." During NCVRW, crime victims, victim advocates, criminal justice professionals and community leaders promote victims' rights, honor crime victims and their advocates, and help provide resources to rebuild crime victims' lives.

This year during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the passage of historic legislation. In 1984 President Reagan signed into law the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) establishing the crime victims' fund made up of federal criminal fines, penalties and bond forfeitures, to support state victim compensation and local victim assistance programs. In addition, the newly enacted Justice Assistance Act established a financial assistance program for state and local government and provided funding for 200 new victim service programs. The National Victims Resource



Center was established, now named the Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center (OVCRC), to serve as a clearinghouse for victim related publications and other resources. For the last three decades, these and many other 1984 milestones have paved the way for restoring the balance of justice for crime victims.

Funding of crime victims' compensation and victim assistance programs through VOCA has allowed families who are touched by violent crime to receive necessary resources and services. TDCJ Victim Services Division Director Angie McCown commented

on the long-term dedication of crime victims and their advocates, saying, "As we mark this year's historic National Crime Victims' Rights Week and its theme, 30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice, let us continue to look forward, identifying the challenges ahead in the journey to bring justice to crime victims."

Visit the online Texas Victim Assistance Training calendar to search, view or submit NCVRW events in your area. Typical activities include community walks and runs, education programs, art displays and a variety of recognition ceremonies. For more information about National Crime Victims' Rights Week, contact the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse at 800-848-4284, or by e-mail at tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.state.tx.us. ●